

***Poppy and Ereth***

By Avi

This book is one in the series of Poppy and friends. Poppy, a deer mouse, is a friend of Ereth, a porcupine. She helps Ereth escape from a mud hole but is taken by a bat to their bat cave. While in the cave she escapes from Bounder, the Fox. But as a forest fire begins to destroy the forest, they help each other to warn their families.

I recommend this book for lower elementary grades in any library. It is fun to read. Little children would certainly enjoy the adventures of these forest creatures.  
-Deb Daehnke

***The King's Rose***

By Alisa M. Libby

*The King's Rose* is the fictional account of Henry VIII's often forgotten fifth wife, Catherine Howard. When fifteen year old Catherine catches the king's eye, he divorces his current wife to marry the young girl, eager for youth and innocence even as his health declines. Catherine is caught between two worlds, that of her family the Howards, who want to bury her spoiled past in order to gain the throne and that of King Henry whose marriage bed has resulted in two divorces, one beheading, and one death. Can Catherine live up to the memory of beloved Queen Jane who birthed Henry's only son or is she destined for the chopping block like her cousin Anne Boleyn? Can she sire a child for the king or will she have to resort to desperate measures in order to fulfill her duty? And, where is her heart in all of this?

Serving as both a romance and a tragedy, this novel is most appropriate for a junior high to lower high school audience. This fictional snapshot into the Tudor world gives the reader unique insight into the ever changing and dangerous court life surrounding Henry VIII.

-Valerie Knight

***Rampant***

By Diana Peterfreund

Astrid thought her mother's crazy stories about killer unicorns and her family's supposed legacy as unicorn hunters were just that - crazy. That was until one attacked her boyfriend and almost killed him. She quickly learns that she is destined to become a unicorn hunter and must journey to Italy to the ancient training grounds to train. There, in the long neglected Cloisters of Ctesias, Astrid discovers new friends and a new purpose. She even discovers a possible new love that could result in her throwing away her mother's hopes and dreams for her. What does Astrid really want? Is all

what it seems? Why are the unicorns reemerging? What are the hidden agendas of her fellow unicorn hunters? Why is Giovanni interested in her? And, what is Astrid's true destiny?

This very unusual book gives insight into some of the old myths and tales surrounding unicorns, ones that over the centuries have morphed the mythical unicorn from a dangerous beast into one of innocence and beauty. It is best suited for the high school audience and more mature middle school students.

-Valerie Knight

***Skylar*** By Mary Cuffe-Perez

When a lost heron lands at the pond of five geese, Skylar, their leader, decides they will migrate and help the heron find his Lost Pond. Only Skylar and one of the other geese have every migrated before and that was many years before. They experience many trials and dangers throughout their journey of becoming wild geese again.

I recommend this book for grades one through four in any library. The author based this book on her own experiences. It is a fun story of how geese migrate, the instincts they use to do so, and the dangers they face on their annual treks. Very entertaining and fun. One of the geese does die at the end of the book. I would recommend this book.

-Deb Daehnke

***Lifting the Sky***

By Mackie d'Arge

*This is the summary from the book jacket which summarizes the book much better than I can.*

"Twelve-year-old Blue, always on the move with her ranch-hand mother, yearns for a real home where he father can find them, and on a remote ranch on a Wyoming reservation she finds that and more, including a mystical ability to heal injuries."

I recommend this book for middle school or older in any library. The author based this book on her own experiences. If you like outdoor stories, the West, and Native American folk lore, this book is for you. It might be a little more interesting to females but there was much mystery and suspense to accommodate male readers as well. There is a good lesson here about wishing for something when you don't know what you might get. The story showed Blue as a strong, independent, resourceful twelve-year-old. I would highly recommend this book.

-Deb Daehnke

### ***Million-Dollar Throw***

By Mike Lupica

"Brady" nickname for 13-year-old Nate Brodie because he's Tom Brady's biggest fan and also Nate has the potential of becoming a star quarterback. Brady seems to have it all as the story starts, a great eighth grade winning football team, a best friend and confidant, Abby McCall, and now a chance to win a million dollars during a pro football game by hitting a target with his football. However as the story progress the reader learns that the Brodie family might lose the family home because of economic times after his dad loses his job and Abby eyesight starts failing because of a rare disease.

This story is full of football talk, handling of disappointments and hardships and intrigue on hitting the mark. It is inspirational as the characters reach out to each other in times of need, the perseverance that is needed during tough times, and the self sacrifice of putting others first.

A "must" volume for all school libraries that can be highly recommended to boys, girls, or the reluctant reader as a "good" read. I will be purchasing this volume as a gift because of the powerful message that Lupica has woven through the story line.

-Pat Thompson WSC

### ***Arthur and Guen: An Original Tale of Young Camelot***

By Jon Koons

This is the cute story of a chance meeting between King Arthur and Queen Guenevere as children (which Merlin makes them forget at the end). Guen gives Arthur a run for his money and they end up fighting evil men and even find Excalibur, Arthur's famous sword in the bargain. It's a great story if kids know the read King Arthur legend. The illustrations are cute and it's fun to see what that time period might have looked like. Recommended for older elementary kids as part of any library collection or the personal collection of someone who loves medieval times.

-Heather Reid, home school parent, Omaha, NE

### ***The Trip* By Ezra Jack Keats**

This is the story of a boy who makes a diorama and then let's his imagination take him on an adventure inside. It's a very typical Keats book with colorful but simple illustrations and plenty of things in those illustrations to add to the story. It's recommended for preschool or early elementary students and would be a nice addition to a school or public library.

-Heather Reid, home school parent, Omaha, NE

### **Snuggle Bugs**

By David Kirk

This is an easy reader book that addresses the “scary storm” reality for most kids. Of course, Miss Spider and her children weave through obstacles to learn lessons about what to do when you’re scared...because everybody is sometimes. The illustrations of the Spider’s Sunny Patch Friends collection are typical of all the Miss Spider books...colorful and full of fun things to talk about. This is a good addition to any public collection and would be well loved by preschoolers and early elementary students who can read this themselves.  
-Heather Reid, home school parent, Omaha, NE

### **Stumped**

By David Kirk

This is an easy reader book that tells the story of two bugs who aren’t getting along and get “stumped” (put in time out) until they mend their ways. It’s a very applicable book for kids in preschool and early elementary school. The illustrations of the Spider’s Sunny Patch Friends collection are typical of all the Miss Spider books...colorful and full of fun things to talk about. This is a good addition to any public collection.  
-Heather Reid, home school parent, Omaha, NE

### **Froggy Goes to Camp**

By Jonathan London

This is a typical Froggy story about a youngster who is excited initially to get to camp, forgets many things and has to return for them, and then is a bit shy when he finally gets to his destination. All the fun Froggy elements are present from shouting parents to fun, colorful illustrations and lots of “flop, flop, flopping”. Kids from preschool to early elementary school will love this book which is an easy read and could be an enjoyable part of any collection.  
-Heather Reid, home school parent, Omaha, NE

### **Speed Racer: Challenge of the Masked Racer (#2)**

This is a fun book for boys in who are at about a 3rd to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. A review said that this book helped her “reluctant” reader to read a chapter book and here’s why: it’s full of exciting racing adventures, good father/son fun and of course a mystery “masked racer”. Chapters are fairly short, margins and type are large and illustrations frequent, making this an easy read for boys and should be a part of a public library collection.  
-Heather Reid, home school parent, Omaha, NE (with the help of Isaiah Reid, age 8)

**Star Wars, The Clone Wars: Captured**

This is the story that follow the TV series. Count Dooku had been captured by space pirates as had Anakin and Obi-Wan. They escaped and went after Dooku but he got away. The illustrations are typical of the tv cartoon. The text provides enough detail to be interesting to boys who love Star Wars but are early readers. It's not great literature but may encourage a reluctant reader to read. This is recommended for a public library.

-Heather Reid, home school parent, Omaha, NE (with the help of Isaiah Reid, age 8)

**Star Wars, The Clone Wars: Operation Huttlet**

This is the story that follows the TV series. Anakin and Asokah must find Jaba the Hut's child and return it to him in time convince him to join the Separatists. The illustrations are typical of the tv cartoon. The text provides enough detail to be interesting to boys who love Star Wars but are early readers. It's not great literature but may encourage a reluctant reader to read. This is recommended for a public library.

-Heather Reid, home school parent, Omaha, NE (with the help of Isaiah Reid, age 8)

**Star Wars, The Clone Wars: Bombad Jedi**

This is the story that follow the TV series. JarJar and C3PO must pretend to be Jedi to rescue Padme. They then help others stay away from the Trade Federation. The illustrations are typical of the tv cartoon. The text provides enough detail to be interesting to boys who love Star Wars but are early readers. It's not great literature but may encourage a reluctant reader to read. This is recommended for a public library.

-Heather Reid, home school parent, Omaha, NE (with the help of Isaiah Reid, age 8)

**Jean Fritz's And Then What Happened Paul Revere**

This is the story of the famous ride and then is a short biography of his life. It includes interesting facts and enough illustrations to help younger readers be successful in reading this book. It's recommended for upper elementary kids for independent reading. Younger kids would like to listen to this book read aloud. It is an excellent book for any school or public library.

-Heather Reid, home school parent, Omaha, NE (with the help of Isaiah Reid, age 8)

### **Jean Fritz's Can't You Make Them Behave King George?**

This is a story of King George and his part and side of the American Revolution. It provides an unusual perspective from the English side and includes interesting facts and enough illustrations to help younger readers be successful in reading this book. It's recommended for upper elementary kids for independent reading. Younger kids would like to listen to this book read aloud. It is an excellent book for any school or public library.

-Heather Reid, home school parent, Omaha, NE (with the help of Isaiah Reid, age 8)

### ***The Mighty Pigeon Club***

By Daniel San Souci

Arthur, a pigeon enthusiast, becomes allergic to his pigeons. He gives them to the neighbor boys who put them in their clubhouse. They encounter numerous problems and finally are able to find a new owner.

I recommend this book for lower to middle elementary students in both school and public libraries. The story line is great and the pictures add humor. It would be a good purchase.

-Sharon Kinnan, WSC Student

### ***When Harriet met Sojourner***

By Catherine Clinton

This is the story of two slave girls and how their paths crossed as strong women.

I recommend it for middle to upper elementary students in both school and public libraries. It features wonderful information with pictures. It is a simple historical story that children could understand.

This would be a good purchase.

-Sharon Kinnan, WSC Student

### ***Almost***

By Richard Torrey

Jack is almost six and can almost do several things.

I recommend this book for very young children in both school and public libraries. The story line is a shallow, it would not be a good purchase.

-Sharon Kinnan, WSC Student

### ***Good Night Nori***

By Brigitte Weninger

Nori, the cat, cannot sleep so he visits all his animal friends who give him advice on how to sleep. Finally, Petey Pig tells him the moon and the stars are always there and will help him sleep – and they do!

I recommend this book for preschool through lower elementary in both school and public libraries. The book has cute pictures to follow the nice storyline, this would be a good purchase.

-Sharon Kinnan, WSC Student

### ***Thank You, God, for Everything***

By August Gold

Daisy always hears her dad thank God for each day. This motivates her to go on a journey and figure out what she is thankful for. She learns she is thankful for many things, great and small. She learns she is thankful for everything.

I recommend this book for kindergarten through second grade in both school and public libraries.

The beautiful scenic illustrations are very detailed and bold. It has an exceptionally positive outlook and does not have a conflict like many books do, only a journey that brings Daisy to a different outlook on life.

This book is a good reminder to be thankful for the many things in life we experience that we don't always think about and may take for granted.

-Lexi Nelson, WSC Student

### ***Sloppy Joe***

By Dave Keane

Sloppy Joe is a book for youth who love to have a messy room, eat sloppily, and love to get down and dirty. The illustrations in the book make the story come alive. The story also shows youth that no matter how messy they are, their parents will always love them and accept who they are.

I would recommend this book for first through fourth graders in both school and public libraries. It compares to other books because in the end it relates how important family is. It was a very good book and should be placed in school and local libraries.

-JJ Hartung, WSC Student

### ***Periwinkle Smith and the Twirly, Whirly, Tutu***

By John and Wendy

Periwinkle Smith loves her twirly whirly tutu. She does everything imaginable in her tutu and never wants to take it off. When the unexpected happens will she be forced to take her tutu off? How will she handle the sticky situations, and what will she do?

I recommend this book for first grade and up in both school and public libraries. It is a fun book to read with interesting illustrations. This book makes children wonder what is going to happen next. It is a good book for getting children to think about what they can do in tough situations.

-Sierra Depledge, WSC Student

***Seamore the Very Forgetful Porpoise***

By Darcie Edgemon

This is a very exciting book that will draw the students in. In this book you see many different animals from under the sea. There is a killer whale, many little fish, and last but not least, the forgetful porpoise, Seamore. The colors in this book are so bright and exciting you cannot put it down. The plot of the story is so exciting and such a great way to teach children that it is ok to forget as long as you have a good friend that is going to always be there for you no matter what happens.

I recommend this book for kindergarteners and up in both school and public libraries. The illustrations make it worth having in your own personal library.

This is a great book for teaching that not everything is what it seems and that having a friend is a great asset. You will also see that even though people make fun of you, no matter what you will always have one friend to stand by you. After reading this book I went out and bought it for myself, it has so many great meanings in the book that it is a great learning tool.

-Kayla Jansen, WSC Student

***Backbeard Pirate for Hire***

By Matthew McElligott

Backbeard takes you back when pirates sailed the seven seas. He shows courage and strength against the Pirate Council, standing for who he is. Even as a nasty and dirty pirate, Backbeard goes against his odds and tries his luck on land. This book is an excellent source for children growing up who are facing issues with conformity.

I recommend this book for third grade and up in both school and public libraries. The variety of pictures helps put an image with the words, while giving kids a giggle. This book is versatile, it can be read to children for fun, or could be read to children as a guide for being themselves.

I always wanted to be a pirate when I was younger which is why this book caught my eye. I got a kick out of it, it is fun and silly while still holding a meaning behind it.

-Keshia Santero, WSC Student

***Me Hungry!***

By Jeremy Tankard

Edwin is hungry and both of his parents are too busy to help him get something to eat. He decides to hunt for himself and he can't seem to find the right animal to hunt, they either hide, are too sharp, or too mean for him to hunt. He finally finds an animal that is hungry too so



they help each other find food. They become friends and when Edwin's dad called him for dinner, he replied, "We busy!"

I recommend this book for children ages 3-7 in both school and public libraries. It has some bright and colorful illustrations and is a great book to read to little kids to teach them how to be independent and how to make new friends.

-Doug Hart, WSC Student

### ***Princess Party***

By Joy Allen

What girl doesn't want to be a princess? In this book it is no mystery that every little girl dreams of being one!

From finding the perfect outfit to planning a tea party, these little princesses do it all! After a long day filled with princess activities, it's time for a bed time story.

When it is all said and done remember every princess is an incredible girl.

I would recommend this for early elementary or any princess lover in both school and public libraries.

The illustrations are very cute and detailed, great for any girl who loves pink and princesses.

-Hailey Hintz, WSC Student

### ***Monkeys and Dog Days***

By Kate Banks

Max is the youngest in his family and feels that he does everything for them. One day, Max was talking to an imaginary dog. Max and his older brother Pete both want a dog but first they need to learn about dogs. Once they read a book about dogs they get a dog named Fudge. Pete and Max learn the responsibilities in taking care of a dog until Pete starts to slack off.

I recommend this book for second and third graders in public libraries. The illustrations clearly showed what was happening and were very creative. This book was a good story, but it also taught the reader something.

Other books may have a story but do not have a message behind the story to teach the reader.

This book would be good for parents and a child to read. It will show a child how to be responsible.

-Courtney Fogle, WSC Student

### ***I Want a Hug***

By John A. Rowe

This book is about the most adorable hedgehog named Elvis. All Elvis wants is a hug and no one wants to give him one because he is too prickly. He later finds a friend and gets his hug. This book teaches how you are not the only one left out.

I recommend this book for third graders in both school and public libraries. There are no manners used in this book, on a scale of 1 to 10, I would give this book a 6.  
-Casandra Woerman

***Princess Grace*** By Mary Hoffman

Princess Grace is about a little girl who always wanted to be a princess. At school, her teacher told the class that there was going to be a parade, with princesses. Grace didn't know what kind of princess to be. Her teacher told her about a princess, from Nigeria who led battles, princesses who started a women's army and princesses that were sports women. On the day of the parade there were many different types of princesses.

I recommend this book to fourth graders in both school and public libraries. This is a very cute book that shows little girls that they can be many different kinds of princesses and not all of them have to be in crowns and ball gowns. It also features wonderful illustrations and would be good for any fourth grade boy or girl.

-Leanne Lill, WSC Student

***Teacher Appreciation Day***

By Lynn Plourde

This book is about a little girl named Maybella Jean Wishwashy and deciding what to get her teacher for teacher appreciation day. All of the other students gather apples, dandelions, wear green for a day, etc. Maybella gets her so many things that are so ransom. Then a TV news show comes and interviews each of the children and Maybella's answer is the best of all . . . she loves everything about her teacher.

I recommend this book for third and fourth graders in both school and public libraries. The illustrations are very cute and will keep students' attention on the book. I can't think of another book that this one compares to, but I will look for more books by this author because she writes books that relate to school life.

This book is really cute and it lets the students know that they can do things for their favorite teacher.

-Jen Gangwish, WSC Student

***Twenty-Six Princesses***

By Dave Horowitz

This book lets all the little princesses be who they want to be. From A to Z a perfect match for each royal queen. Along with a silly frog following them all! A smile, a frown, who knows what will be found. A laugh, a cheer, that's what some princesses hear! This book is for young kids from the age of preschool to second grade, as a read aloud for younger students and an

independent read for older students. I recommend it for use in both school and public libraries.

It is an easy read that compares highly among others. I really liked it, the rhyming pictures and the little frog found on every page kept me interested the whole time!  
-Nicole Brungardt, WSC Student

### ***I'm Bad!***

By Kate and Jim McCullan

Are you bad? The young t-rex in this book definitely thinks he is. This book captivates your imagination and takes you on a journey to the past where t-rexes ruled the land. It is brought to life by the simple yet vibrant pictures. The word choice is amazing and fun. You can really feel the attitude this dino has. It is a book that will grab the attention of a classroom.

I recommend this book for preschoolers through first grade in both school and public libraries. The illustrations are vibrant, it has fun phrases and bright colors, and I really enjoyed this book.

-Jennifer Ramsey, WSC Student

### ***Marley Goes to School***

By John Grogan

When the first day of school arrived Marley was very excited to go with Cassie, since he had always done absolutely everything with her. Although Cassie's parents said no and put him in the backyard, he still found away to dig himself out. He made his way to school to be with Cassie. While looking for her he got himself into quite a bit of trouble, but was forgiven.

I recommend this book for first through third graders in both school and public libraries. The illustrations are very creative and also realistic. I think that this book is unique and is a fun adventure that children can imagine happening to them. And compared to other books it is more realistic. I would definitely recommend this book to teachers and parents to read to their children, especially if they have pets of their own.

-Taylor Thies, WSC Student

### ***Time to Play***

By Nigel Gray

The little girl is all excited because it is Sunday and she doesn't have school. She really wants to go and play but she can't find anyone to go play with. She searches the entire house where she finds her cat and kittens, dog and puppies, her little brothers, and finally her parents. She finds them all and can finally play.

I recommend this book for preschool through first grade in both school and public libraries. The book has good pictures with lift up flaps. Compared to others it is very

interesting and keeps the children entertained. The pictures keep them excited and wondering what is on the next page. It also shows the importance of imagination. It is a great picture book that keeps the children entertained and guessing where everyone is hidden. They then can lift up the flap and actually see them and where they were hiding. This book is a great book for young children.

-Catherine Wabs, WSC Student

### ***A Picture Book of Sacagawea***

By David A. Adler

A fantastic account of a brave and resourceful woman, Sacagawea. This is a great book to teach children that wherever life may take you, give your all. This is also a great book to teach children history, especially of our own country. The child will be taken along on the adventure while reading this and seeing the wonderful illustrations.

I recommend this book for fifth graders in both school and public libraries. There are great illustrations done by Dan Brown. It stayed with the facts, nothing made up. This author brings the true account more alive to the readers by the great illustrations and style of writing. I really enjoyed reading this, especially since I am a direct descendent of William Clark and I love to read books that share his story and the rest of the expeditioners.

-Samantha Sjoberg

### ***Amelia Bedelia's First Day of School***

By Herman Parish

It is Amelia Bedelia's first day of school and she is excited. Once she finds the classroom, she love everything in it. When it comes time to do activities Amelia's energy rises for she has never done such things. Amelia is a girl that does exactly what her teacher tells her. At the end of her first day she couldn't wait for the next day to come.

I recommend this book for first through third graders in both school and public libraries. It featured large, bright, illustrations. This book is not at all the typical "First Day of School" book. It is very lively and is an attention getter.

It is an excellent choice for young children who are getting ready for school. It will make them excited and curious about school.

-Hilary Melham

***Mud Tacos*** By Mario Lopez and Marissa Lopez Wong  
Mario and Marissa love to use their imaginations. It is so fun to imagine with them as a cardboard box becomes a restaurant that makes anything you want even mud tacos! Detailed and vibrant pictures fill the pages as two siblings prove with their bud tacos that no one is too old to pretend.

I recommend this book for first or second graders in both school and public libraries. Its vivid and rich illustrations fill each page. It is a fun and easy read that kids will love.

-Emily Schopen, WSC Student

***Pete and Pickles***

By Berkeley Breathed

*Pete and Pickles* is a heartwarming tale about two very unlikely friends that find refuge in each other's company. Pete who is a very reserved pig breaks through the wall of his structured life to save pickles from a long and confined circus life.

I recommend this book for third to fourth graders in both school and public libraries. Its illustrations were very detailed and will capture the reader's attention. It did a great job of taking things from around the world. It can be a great way to introduce the kids to different parts of our globe.

-Trevor Urkoski, WSC Student

***Ladybug Girl and Bumblebee Boy***

By David Soman and Jacky Davis

Superpower Ladybug Girl named Lulu wakes up to go to the playground with her mom and dog, Bingo. There she finds her friend Sam. They don't know what to play but Lulu thinks Sam should be Bumblebee Boy that has a magic stinger. They go and save people from monsters and robots. Two girls come over and want to play, find out what happens when they join forces.

I recommend this book for third graders in both school and public libraries. It is an adventure book that features children with "super powers." Teachers from kindergarten through second grade could also use this book as a read aloud.

-Kyla Walnofer, WSC Student

***The Pout-Pout Fish***

By Deborah Diesen

Mr. Fish swims about with an ever-present pout. Will he ever swim without gloom and doubt? Discover what it takes to make Mr. Fish's day.

I recommend this book for kindergarten through third grade in both school and public libraries. It features colorful, fun illustrations by Dan Hanna. This fun,

rhyming, easy to read book is great for teaching children how one small gesture can change someone's day.

-Sara Schrader, WSC Student

### ***Alice's World Record***

By Tim Kennemore

Alice is caught between an older brother who always gets attention by never being wrong and winning at everything he does, and a younger sister who is always in trouble for what she does. Alice does not get any attention unless she has to keep her sister out of trouble. She craves attention from others for who she is and what she can do.

I would recommend this for third and fourth graders in both school and public libraries. The book includes very good black and white drawings to help tell the story. It is an excellent book to show young people that it is okay to want attention and being good is an okay way to get attention. It would be good for any young person who feels over-shadowed by his or her siblings. When Alice finally found success and her siblings got into trouble she found that it wasn't nearly the fun she thought it would be.

-Kathy Muller, WSC Student

### ***Horse Crazy: The Circus Horse #2***

By Alison Lester

Bonnie and Samantha (Bon and Sam) love horses; they talk to the horses and care for them even if the horses are not their own. When they borrow a horse to prepare a circus ride on horseback for the city talent show they are disappointed to find that no talent act can include animals.

I would recommend this for third grade students in both school and public libraries. The whole page and the small colored illustrations are great additions to the story. The book is written by an Australian author so some Australian words are included in a glossary to help the reader understand the new words.

Sam and Bon were able to help an injured young circus performer by taking her place and riding their horse in a circus act. They were able to show their skills in spite of not being in the talent contest. They were proud. This book makes the reader wonder what the other books in the series are like.

-Kathy Muller, WSC Student

### ***Switch***

By Carol Snow

Ever since Claire Martin hit her teens, electrical storms have been making her switch bodies. Usually she's back to her own body in no time. But when something

goes wrong, she finds herself stuck in the body of a striking summer visitor named Larissa. Worse yet, Claire's friend (and secret crush), Nate, seems to be more and more interested in Larissa . . .

I recommend this book for ninth through twelfth graders in both school and public libraries.

This is a light-hearted addition to the paranormal craze that has taken over young adult fiction.

-Holly Troup, Clearwater Public Library

### ***Little Tad Grows Up***

By Giuliano Ferri

Little Tad enjoys his life as a tadpole. He thinks his life is perfect just the way it is. Little Tad is much distressed as his body begins to undergo metamorphosis. He wants his new legs to go away, and he wants his shrinking tail to return to its old size. However, when he narrowly escapes being eaten by a water snake, he realizes that legs aren't so bad after all.

I recommend this book for children ages three to seven in both school and public libraries. It is a fun way to introduce or review metamorphosis with young children. It can also open the door for discussions about growing up.

-Patricia Olson, WSC Student

### ***Sleep, Baby, Sleep***

By Maryann Cusimano

Building upon a traditional Mother Goose rhyme, Maryann Cusimano Love wrote additional verses that embody a parent's hopes and dreams for their child. She draws upon the characteristics of different animals to give voice to the aspirations parents hold. For example, the bear cub who scales tall trees encourages children to climb to reach for their goals.

I recommend this book for preschoolers through first graders in school, public, and home libraries. Each verse has an accompanying illustration. It is a very positive book. It quietly encourages children to reach their full potential. The tone of the rhymes is perfect for a cuddle and a snuggle as it is being read.

-Patricia Olson, WSC Student

### ***Tony and the Pizza Champions***

By Tony Gemignani

This is the true story of Tony Gemignani and his pizza tossing team who traveled to Italy to compete against teams from around the world in the World Pizza Championship. The book also includes information on all the ways pizza is eaten in the United States and around. All the competitors have unique tossing styles

that involve a lot of showmanship but Tony's team top them all with their acrobatic tossing style.

I recommend this book for first through fourth graders in both school and public libraries. The book includes recipes and instructions for tossing dough and a website to videos of Tony making tossed dough.

Who doesn't love pizza? The book is a blast to read and will inspire some pizza tossing creativity in the kitchen.

-Patricia Olson, WSC Student

### ***Look Out, Suzy Goose***

Petr Horáček

Suzy Goose, seeking peace and quiet from the noisy geese in the flock, goes for a walk in the woods. Little does she know that she is being followed by a hungry fox. The fox in turn is being trailed by a wolf and a bear. Fortunately Suzy is able to escape and return to the safety of her flock.

I recommend this book for two to six year olds. It is a simple story, simply told, that will appeal to the lap-sit group. It is a good way to teach that little ones should not go off on their own.

-Patricia Olson, WSC Student

### ***Lance in France***

By Ashley MacEachern

Bicyclist, Lance Armstrong peddles his way through situations in the Tour de France, overcoming obstacles with a smile on his face and determination in his heart. With his "Never say quit" attitude he emerges with a victory.

I recommend this book for kindergarten through third grade in both school and public libraries. The illustrations absolutely pop in this book. The story and end notes help the reader understand Lance and the grueling Tour de France race just a little bit better. There is a good lesson to be learned throughout the story of never giving up, no matter the obstacles. There are not too many words on the page and the pictures work well in telling the story as much as the words do. It is a feel good, easy to read and understand kind of story.

-Jane Dodson, WSC Student

### ***Lionel and the Book of Beasts***

By E. Nesbit

Little preschooler, Lionel, is summoned to become king of his people. He goes through the crowning ceremony and his life as a very young king begins. Being so young there is a lot he doesn't understand and he makes mistakes. After days of crying about the choices he has made, he stops the tears, starts thinking and saves his kingdom from the red dragon he accidentally released.



I recommend this book for kindergarten through fourth grade in both school and public libraries. The many words on the page would hint it to be better suited as a read aloud. I don't know very many young readers who would pick this story up and read it themselves. With the main character being a young and the story being so fanciful and imaginative young readers would be excited at the thought of someone their age leading the kingdom. The story leader could get some great discussion going about what they think of the young king and what would they do if they were in his position.  
-Jane Dodson, WSC Student

### ***Helen Keller***

By Lesa Cline-Ransome

Helen Keller has been a favorite and beloved American character for many years. Today she stands for many handicapped people and what they can achieve from hard work and the initiative to improve her situation. The book focuses on her life before and after Anne Sullivan. It was a different period in time and things have changed so much. It is just an enjoyable book for story hour. Great for kindergarten through fourth grade, the kids really liked this book, the pictures are wonderful and lend so much to the story.  
-Carol Tramp, Wynot Public School

### ***Smile***

By John A. Rowe

Can you imagine someone that never smiles? What about their whole family never smiling, and eventually the community? What if it has been so long since anyone smiled that everyone forgot how and couldn't recognize a smile anymore? Or if when someone finally did smile they called doctors and specialists because they didn't know what was "wrong" with that person? This is such a cute book, the pictures of the dog family are humorous, but it makes the kids think. This book would be good for preschool through second grade.  
-Carol Tramp, Wynot Public School

### ***The Great White House Break Out***

By Helen Thomas

The son of the President of the United States decided that he really needs a break from the White House scene so he plans and carries out an escape. The book is cute because in the background are secret service men, photographers, iconic scenes from Washington, DC and puns on things that are terms we use frequently when talking about these topics. One of his best friends is a lab rat that worked for NASA (really a rat!). Add famous people and you have lots of cute ideas floating

around on the pages. Enjoyable book and something and older child might appreciate more. I recommend it for first through fourth graders.

-Carol Tramp, Wynot Public School

***The Emperor of Absurdia*** By Chris Riddell

This is a strange book with strange characters and strange sights. The title says it all, Absurdia! The characters are precocious, if not strange! Imagine eating dinner, then lunch, but when you get to lunch, it hatches and flies away! A cute book with lots of imagination. Not for a concrete thinking, or you may have more questions than answers. I recommend this book for preschool through third grade.

Carol Tramp, Wynot Public School

***Eli Remembers***

By Ruth Vander Zee and Marian Sneider

This would be a good book when talking about the holocaust to use in the classroom. It is so simplistic and so sad. Eli wonders why his family is always so sad during Rosh Hashanan, the Jewish New Year. He asks his mother, "Why does Great Grandma cry? Why does Grandpa be so sad? His mother answers, "Some things are too difficult to talk about."

Later the family travels to Lithuania, he learns why his family is so sad during the Jewish New Year. The pictures express the characters so well, it is a nice book on a difficult topic that younger children might have a tough time understanding. I recommend it for second through sixth graders.

-Carol Tramp, Wynot Public School